

CBRT *Colorado Black Round Table*

To: Colorado Governor Jared Polis

April 29, 2019

Dear Governor Polis,

Please accept this letter as a request for a meeting with you, your key staff, and Black community leadership for an update on issue areas you committed to the Black community during your campaign to be Governor of Colorado. This letter is more of a challenge, critique and reminder as opposed to an out and out criticism of your administration. I honestly believe that you are a good person. I also believe that the rigors and duration of the campaign may have limited your ability to remember or to recall things you may have said or committed to during the campaign. So let me refresh your memory:

- On Friday, October 27, 2017 at the Holiday Inn Stapleton, as part of the Colorado Black Round Table (CBRT) Colorado Future Forum, you and every candidate running for Governor committed to the Black Community two (2) items for Executive Action, if elected. Those areas of commitment were:
 1. A commitment to appoint Black persons in Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet positions in a Polis Administration. This would be done with recommendations from and in conjunction with Black elected officials, Black community organizations and concerned citizens
 2. A commitment to conduct two disparity studies. One study would focus on issues that impact Black families as highlighted in the 2013 Rocky Mountain Public Broadcast Report on "Losing Ground in Black and Brown Communities in Colorado" and further examined in the CBRT Report on "Gaining Ground in the Black Community." The second disparity study requested is related to Economic Opportunity in Colorado and should look at what the State of Colorado is doing and has done for minority businesses and Black businesses in particular. Every candidate running made that commitment to support and initiate this study.

On Saturday, April 21, 2018 at the Hiawatha Davis Recreation as part of the CBRT Critical Issues Discussion on Education and Economic Opportunity in the Black Community with candidates for Governor of Colorado, I once again asked the same questions from 2017, and once again, you affirmed your support and commitment.

So here we are in April of 2019, and as a community, we have not heard back from you on any of these concerns so we are reaching out to you. The first question Governor is

- Where are we at with the hiring and appointment of key Black staffers in your administration? You spent time and money messaging to our community. You convinced a number of Black leaders to trust you and advance your message for community engagement with a community that you did not have any connection to, other than Boulder acquaintances, as well as some gender and political connections. You came to us seeking support, and in the end, we gave you that support.
- Secondly, what is the status within the Polis Administration of the two (2) disparity studies on the Black Family and Economic Opportunity and the Black Community? These studies are critical for identifying research areas, securing the necessary data, benchmarks, resources, and for developing legislation and public policy to shape opportunities for solutions. Further, you will need people with a cultural connection to the Black community to assist with these two areas.
- Finally, do you remember these meetings and subsequent commitments you made as a candidate? If you do not, then accept this as a friendly reminder. If you do remember, then as requested, we would like to schedule a meeting in the next thirty (30) days to explore opportunities for further engagement on these Black community concerns.

Governor, you have an agenda, and as a community, we are glad that you were elected. Please also understand that CBRT and the Black community have an agenda. The CBRT agenda includes doing more for Black Colorado citizens through advocacy, information and programs. The Black community's agenda is to lift up all Black Colorado citizens. Your agenda should be aligned with the interests of all your constituents. CBRT is reminding you that your interests are our interests, and as partners, we have some questions about the nature of this partnership and our participation as we move Colorado forward together.

